

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 107169 TOSEC 040182

FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT BERNARD GWERTZMAN BYLINER THE NEW YORK TIMES TUESDAY MAY 10 HEADED "U.S. PROPOSAL TO LIMIT ARMS SALES UPSETS ISRAEL AND ITS SUPPORTERS."
2. ISRAEL AND ITS SUPPORTERS APPEARED HEADED TODAY TOWARD A CONFRONTATION WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION OVER ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO BUY OR CO-MANUFACTURE ADVANCED AMERICAN WEAPONS.
3. A CAMPAIGN IS UNDER WAY TO PERSUADE PRESIDENT CARTER TO REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WOULD EXCLUDE ISRAEL FROM THE PRIVILEGED CATEGORY OF ARMS PURCHASERS AND CO-PRODUCERS AND WOULD LIMIT ITS ABILITY TO RECEIVE MODERN WEAPONS.

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4. THE PRO-ISRAELI CAMPAIGN HAS CAUSED CONCERN AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND LUCY W. BENSON, UNDER SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, IS SEEKING TO DILUTE PROPOSED SENATE AMENDMENTS SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S CASE.
5. ONE SENATE SOURCE SAID SHE HAD URGED A DELAY IN ACTION BY THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE UNTIL SECRETARY OF STATE

CYRUS R. VANCE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON IN TWO WEEKS AND

COULD DISCUSS THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE COMMITTEE. THE RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDED IN A POLICY PAPER ON ARMS SALES, ARE PART OF AN ADMINISTRATION EFFORT TO CURB WORLDWIDE ARMS TRANSFERS.

6. THE PAPER IS NOW AT THE WHITE HOUSE AWAITING MR. CARTER'S ACTIONS. THE SECTIONS THAT DISTURB ISRAEL AND ITS SUPPORTERS WOULD LIMIT TRANSFERS OF ADVANCED WEAPONRY AND CO-PRODUCTION OF SUCH SYSTEMS TO THE UNITED STATES' TREATY ALLIES IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND EXCEPT IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES. ISRAEL, DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF A FORMAL TREATY, HAS LOOKED ON ITSELF AS HAVING A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

7. THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN OUTLINED TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, HAVE ALARMED ISRAEL'S SUPPORTERS, SUCH AS RABBI ALEXANDER MR. SCHINDLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS. HE EXPRESSED FEAR TODAY THAT THE "THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT ISRAEL HAS ENJOYED WITH THE UNITED STATES MAY NOW BECOME THE VICTIM OF AN OTHERWISE LAUABLE PURPOSE -- REDUCTION OF THE ARMS TRAFFIC IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

8. HE SAID THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE AIMED AT REDUCING AMERICAN MILITARY SALES TO ARAB STATES, NOT ISRAEL.
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9. TWO BIPARTISAN AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN OFFERED IN THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE ADOPTED ON THURSDAY WITH THE FOREIGN AID AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1978.

9. ONE AMENDMENT, OFFERED BY HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, DEMOCRAT OF MINNESOTA, AND CLIFFORD P. CASE, REPUBLICAN OF NEW JERSEY WOULD EXPRESS "THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS" THAT "SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION" BE GIVEN ISRAEL'S REQUEST TO CO-PRODUCE SUCH ADVANCED SYSTEMS AS THE NEW F-16 FIGHTER.

10. THE OTHER AMENDMENT, INTRODUCED BY FRANK CHURCH, DEMOCRAT OF IDAHO, AND SENATOR JACOB K. JAVITS, REPUBLICAN OF NEW YORK, RECALLS THAT THE UNITED STATES PLEDGED IN 1975 TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ISRAEL'S ARMS NEEDS. CHRISTOPHER

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